

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKART 00035 030940Z

ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8473

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 00035

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA

1. DURING MEETING WITH INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. RUSMIN DECEMBER 31 I ASKED WHETHER RECENT INDONESIAN ANNOUNCEMENTS OF RELEASE OF DETAINEES HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY RUSMIN'S CONTACTS IN WASHINGTON.

2. RUSMIN SAID THAT CLEARLY ANNOUNCEMENT WAS HELPFUL BUT SOME SKEPTICISM ABOUT ULTIMATE INDONESIAN INTENTIONS STILL REMAINED. I SAID THAT I HAD NOTED AMONG FOREIGN PRESS CORRESPONDENTS FOLLOWING RECENT GOI ANNOUNCEMENTS SIMILIAR SKEPTICISM. I HAD SUGGESTED IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES THAT THEY SHOULD MAKE CLEARER EXACTLY WHAT IS MEANT BY RESETTLEMENT OF DETAINEES AND WHAT FREEDOMS OF MOVEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT THEY ARE LIKELY TO HAVE.

3. RUSMIN SAID THIS WOULD CLEARLY BE HELPFUL BUT PROBLEM IS THAT NO AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED WITHIN GOVERNMENT ON THIS POINT. MORE CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN SECURITY FORCES, ARE RELUCTANT TO SEE WHOLESAL AND GENUINE RELEASES. PRESIDENT HIMSELF WANTS TO CONCLUDE PROBLEM AS QUICKLY AND AS FAIRLY AS POSSIBLE. ADMIRAL SUDOMO, WHO IS CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERNMENT'S PRINCIPAL SPOKESMEN, IS, ACCORDING TO RUSMIN, " CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE." INCIDENTS LIKE BOMBINGS IN MEDAN, WHICH ARE ASCRIBED TO MOSLEM ELEMENTS, FURTHER COMPLICATE ISSUE BECAUSE THOSE WHO OPPOSE RELEASE POINT TO SUCH HAPPENINGS AS IN SOME WAY RELATED TO GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO RELEASE DETAINEES.

4. (IN THIS CONNECTION WE NOTE THAT ADMIRAL SUDOMO ON
DECEMBER 31 SPEAKING TO GATHERING OF MOSLEM YOUTH STRESSED
THAT "THE RELEASE OF THE DETAINEES WOULD NEITHER EFFECT
NATIONAL STABILITY NOR NATIONAL RESILIENCEMZL

5. WHEN I ASKED RUSMIN HIS IMPRESSION OF WHETHER OUTSIDE
APPROACHES SUCH AS THOSE FROM USG AND NETHERLANDS WERE
HELPFUL OR UNHELPFUL, HE SAID HE PERSONALLY FELT THEY HAD
BEEN APPROPRIATE AND HLEFUL. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT
SUHARTO IS SEEKING SOLUTION TO PROBLEM PRIMARILY BECAUSE
HE WANTS TO END IT FOR INTERNAL REASONS. ACCORIDNG TO
RUSMIN, SUHARTO WAS PERSONALLY INFLENTIAL IN EARLIER
RELEASE OF CLASS C PRISONERS AND HIS OBJECTIVE THROUGHOUT
HAS BEEN TO SPARE LIVES OF DETAINEES AND ULTIMATELY TO
RELEASE THEM BACK TO SOCIETY. HE WOULD DO SO WITH OR
WITHOUT OUTSIDE PRESSURES.

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